

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Health and Hospitals Office of the Secretary Bureau of Health Services Financing

Rehabilitation Clinic Services—Reimbursement

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing has adopted the following emergency rule in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act and as directed by the 1996-97 General Appropriation Act, which states: "The Secretary shall implement reductions in the Medicaid program as necessary to control expenditures to the level approved in this schedule. The Secretary is hereby directed to utilize various cost containment measures to accomplish these reductions, including but not limited to pre-certification, pre-admission screening, and utilization review, and other measures as allowed by federal law." This emergency rule is adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the rule, whichever occurs first.

The Medicaid Program provides coverage and reimbursement for services delivered by rehabilitation clinics which are facilities that are not part of a hospital but are organized to provide a variety of outpatient rehabilitative services including physical, occupational, speech, hearing, and language therapies. The department has determined that it is necessary to reduce the reimbursement to these clinics for physical, occupational, speech, hearing and language therapies. This action is necessary to avoid a budget deficit in the medical assistance programs. It is estimated that this action will reduce expenditures for rehabilitation clinic services by approximately \$77,159 for state fiscal 1996-1997.

In addition, the rehabilitative services physical, occupational, speech, hearing and language continue to be available to recipients through the hospital, physician, home health, rural health clinic and federally qualified health center programs.

Emergency Rule

Effective for dates of service of July 10, 1996 and thereafter, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing reduces the reimbursement by 10 percent to rehabilitation clinics which are facilities that are not part of a hospital but are organized to provide a variety of outpatient rehabilitative services including physical, occupational, speech, hearing, and language therapies.

Interested persons may submit written comments to: Thomas D. Collins, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this emergency rule.

Bobby P. Jindal
Secretary

9607#027